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2. AGAVE ENGELMANNI, N. SP.

In 1884, shortly before his death, Dr. George Engelmann visited the late Josiah Hoopes, and received from him several very small seedling Agaves. One of these, which bore the name *A. attenuata*, var. *subdentata*, was placed at the Botanical Garden, where it reached apparently good development, and bloomed and (with artificial pollination) fruited in January, 1891, thus affording an opportunity for determining its true affinities. As was evident even from the leaf characters, it could not properly be referred to any form of *A. attenuata*; and an examination of the complete material last winter led to the conviction that it was an unnamed species, a conclusion shared by Mr. Baker, of Kew Gardens, to whom photographs and specimens were sent. In connection with a reproduction of a photograph showing the habit of the flowering plant, and a plate of details, the following description of the species is offered, and I take pleasure in dedicating it to the memory of its donor, a botanist whose writings on the Agaves are classical.

AGAVE ENGELMANNI, Trelease, n. sp. *A. attenuata*, var. *subdentata*, Hort. Hoopes.). — Acaulescent; leaves about 30, in a rosette 3 ft. broad and 18 in. high, deep green, transiently somewhat glaucous, rather thin and not very rigid, oblanceolate-spatulate, commonly recurved, the upper surface concave, 6 to 7 in. wide by about 2 ft. long, reduced to 3 in. wide and 1½ in. thick near base, acuminate, the brown purple end spine channeled and decurrent for a short distance as a very narrow dark margin connecting the small deltoid slightly reflexed teeth, which further down are quite distinct; scape about 7 ft. high, the upper two-thirds floriferous; panicle narrowly oblong, the short ascending branches densely few flowered; perianth yellowish green, about an inch long, equalling the ovary and with funnel shaped tube; style and stamens exerted for about 1 in., the former finally double this length; capsules clustered, mostly about an inch long; seeds 3x5 mm. and about one-half millimeter thick. Native country unknown. — Plate 55, flowering plant, about one-twentieth natural size. Plate 56, two leaves representing extremes,

one-fourth natural size; apex and marginal teeth, natural size; young (functionally staminate) and old (functionally pistillate) flowers, natural size; capsules (rather smaller than usual), natural size; seed from side and edge, and in section, x 2.

Agave Engelmanni belongs to the foliage group *Rigidæ*, but has rather more flexible leaves than are common in that group; and in the absence of floral characters would be placed beside or united with *A. densiflora* or the scarcely distinct *A. polyacantha*. That species, however, is a typical but very densely flowered representative of the group *Littææ*,—the *Geminifloræ* of Engelmann. *A. Engelmanni*, on the other hand, though it possesses the oblong inflorescence of that group, has its flowers aggregated in unmistakable clusters for the most part elevated on well marked common peduncles, so that it must be classed with the species constituting the group *Euagave*,—the *Paniculatæ* of Engelmann,—which, to a certain extent, it thus brings into connection with *Littææ*. The latter, moreover, occasionally has the lowest flowers in sessile groups of three, while Engelmann describes in the Gardeners' Chronicle for 1883, xix, 48, a form of *A. heteracantha* with the capsules clustered on very evident common peduncles.

At present no light can be thrown on the origin of this species, which, as has been said, is in no sense related to *A. attenuata*. The only reference I find to a variety *subdentata* under the latter, is in the catalogue of Cels of Paris, for 1865, p. 17. Possibly the seedling here described may have originally come from that house.

W. T.



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